# TAG, YOU'RE IT!

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# SUPERIMPOSE: THURSDAY OCTOBER 31, 2019 - HALLOWEEN

BLACK. SILENT SCREEN portends the moment. A crowd CHEERS. LOUDER and louder as

FADE IN:

The BLACK becomes a night sky streaked with lightning and torrential rain, falling on -- St. Cassandra herself.

# 1 EXT. ST. CASSANDRA H.S. - WILMETTE, ILLINOIS - RAIN - NIGHT 1

In Greek mythology, Cassandra was a daughter of Priam endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed. She predicted the fall of Troy. 2: one that predicts misfortune or disaster.

In front: a large, dripping wet stone statue of a weeping nun. Alongside this --

AN ELECTRONIC BILLBOARD reads: ST. CASSANDRA HIGH SCHOOL

ST. CASSIE v LOYOLA - STATE SEMI-FINALS TONITE 8 PM.

### 2 INT. ST. CASSANDRA HIGH - GYM

2

# FULL SCREEN: A BASKETBALL BOUNCES OFF THE BASKET RIM

A cheering, packed house on their feet with seventeen seconds frozen on the clock.

Scoreboard: ST. CASSANDRA 64, LOYOLA 65.

Poised on the free-throw line: St. Cassie center #21 KEVIN McMANUS 18, African-American, athletic, Midwestern good looks a mere five years away from his own WHEATIES box.

CHEERS as Kevin glances up, exchanges a smile and wink with NICOLE WYNTER: 18, Latina, with long ebony hair, and easily the most desirable young lady in the stands.

After missing the first shot, Kevin makes his second shot.

Score tied!

#### 2a ON THE SIDE OF THE BLEACHERS

2a

A thin pale man with bushy eyebrows in wrinkled clothes is in a heated phone conversation.

#### 2b IN THE BLEACHERS

2b

Nicole applauds enthusiastically, is playfully nudged by BFF CHLOE THOMPSON, 18, cute and spirited with short blonde hair, she glows even while walking in Nicole's shadow. Both APPLAUD enthusiastically for their men.

### 2c ON THE COURT

2c

Play resumes. Loyola gains control, tries to score. Kevin guards, blocks the throw. St. Cassie gets the ball.

Across the court, ball's passed to Kevin. Takes the shot and misses. The CROWD chants FIVE...FOUR...THREE as Kevin leaps, puts back his own rebound...the crowd continues...

TWO...ONE...BUZZER SOUNDS.

St. Cassie victorious: 67-65. Celebration and excitement as the CROWD pours from the stands, hoists a jubilant Kevin into the air.

### 3 EXT. IN FRONT OF LEFTY'S - AN OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT

3

Rain pounds a "vintage" Blue Volvo in front of a hole-in-thewall restaurant.

The Game's highlights are on the car RADIO.

#### 4 INT. MAN ON THE PHONE IN THE OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT

4

The same man from the sidelines is waiting in the old blue volvo outside of Lefty's. Again, he's on the phone, but this time we only see his hand which sports a Jack of Spade tattoo.

He is a degenerate low level mobster agitated because he took Loyola —the favorite. He's now out of a bundle and Kevin just cost him a lot of money.

Before he hangs up he says....

MAN ON PHONE Okay, I'll see you in 15 minutes.

5

# 5 INT. LEFTY'S RESTAURANT - NIGHT

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

Tonight in high school sports, a real buzzer-beater as St.

Cassandra's Oracles took on archrival Loyola in the Illinois State Semi-Finals --

DEREK (O.S.)

Hey! Turn that up!

KEVIN (O.S.)

Man don't. We can hear it fine.

An Oracle is a priest or priestess that utters prophesies. In Christianity, specifically it is used for the concept of divine revelation.

#### 6 INT. LEFTY'S IN A BOOTH - NIGHT

6

In a secluded corner of the restaurant. KEVIN slips on his glasses to watch, sits with NICOLE alongside.

Huddled at the same table is 18 year old, DEREK BYRNE, tall, athletic build, handsome and really obnoxious, his arm around a reluctant CHLOE. All focus on the plasma screen behind the counter as news highlights of the basketball game play.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

(on TV)

-- where the performance of the night, if not the year, was put on by Saint Cassandra center #21, senior Kevin McManus --

DEREK

"Performance of the year," dude!

He raises his hand to high five. Kevin reluctantly complies.

NICOLE

Derek, do you mind? We're trying to listen.

# 6a **ON THE TV**

6a

Video replay echoes the newscaster's words.

NEWSCASTER (O.S.)

(on TV)

-- with only 5 seconds left on the clock, McManus goes for it, misses, then recovers as he puts back his own rebound, handing St. Cassie a 67-65 victory over Loyola, propelling them into the State Finals.

# 6b IN THE BOOTH

6b

All but Kevin APPLAUD, as Nicole leans into him.

DEREK

They could'a mentioned my assist -

CHLOE

Derek please -

DEREK

Well, they could've --

NICOLE

Muy spectacular, novio. That full boat scholarship's a lock for sure.

KEVIN

Hey, we're a package deal, remember: without you, they don't get me.

He kisses her, again.

NICOLE

I'm really tired -- Do we have to go to Stevenson's Halloween party?

KEVIN

His dad's some big deal at Marquette and I had hoped to talk to him about a basketball scholarship. I promise, fifteen minutes and we're History Channel.

DEREK

It was a really a good assist -(Derek places his hand on his
friend's arm) and says... Khorishiy
drug (Russian translation: "good
friend") drug is pronounced: droog

#### 6c SAME - SHORTLY AFTER

TV off, the retro jukebox breaks into Jody Reynold's "Endless Sleep" as Derek and Chloe head to the exit. Nicole waits while Kevin slips into his letter jacket. To her surprise he pulls a single red rose out of his backpack and hands it to her...

NICOLE

Kevin....

CHLOE

You guys coming?

KEVIN

Right behind you.

NICOLE

(to Kevin)

Your scarf --

Kevin grabs his bright red, black and white-striped scarf with fringed ends, drags it across the table, accidentally knocks over the SALT SHAKER. The top slips off. Salt flows.

### 15 MINUTES LATER...

# 7 INT. AN OLD BLUE VOLVO IN FRONT OF LEFTY'S - NIGHT

Now a younger man sits in the car beside the man on the phone. The younger man places two devil masks in between them as they wait.

# 8 EXT. LEFTY'S - WINDY WITH HEAVY RAIN - NIGHT

Waiting, Kevin, Nicole and Chloe stand outside of Lefty's. Kevin scans the puddle-laden grounds. Nicole zips-up, carefully stuffing her rose into her lightweight jacket. Chloe reassures them that....

CHLOE

Derek's heating up the car.

KEVIN

(to Nicole)

That gonna keep you dry?

Kevin removes his scarf and wraps it around Nicole's neck. He takes his matching STOCKING CAP with A BLACK FLUFFY BALL on top, pulls it down over her head.

6с

7

8

NICOLE

Hey! My hair --!

KEVIN

More body heat escapes from the top of your head than anywhere else.

NICOLE

That's so not true.

Nicole kisses him deeply as Chloe watches.

Nicole kisses him again, longer and deeper, then LAUGHS as she dashes into the parking lot, stomping through puddles.

NICOLE (CONT'D)

Tag! You're it!

Kevin takes off into the rain after her. Chloe watches them and smiles as she bundles herself against the dampness.

TITLE CARD ROLLS: Tag, You're It! We see credits as....

### 9 EXT. CAR - MOVING - RAIN - NIGHT

9

Rain lessens. Derek's car speeds past a pair of TRAFFIC ROAD BARRICADES with FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS atop as a RINGING CELL PHONE is heard OVER.

KEVIN (V.O.)

(from following scene)

Yeah?

# 10 EXT. THE OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT

10

The old blue Volvo continues to follow Derek's car.

### 11 INT. CAR - MOVING - NIGHT

11

In the back seat, Nicole admires her rose and rests her head on Kevin's shoulder while he talks on his cell.

KEVIN

(into phone)

We're on our way.

(then, to Derek)

They want us to pick up more ice.

DEREK

When did WE become his delivery boys?

KEVIN

(into phone)

We'll get it. Be there in a few.

NICOLE

If we're going to stop, I better call home to let my parents know I'll be late.

Kevin disconnects, hands his cell to Nicole as she hands him the rose. He indicates to Derek a convenience store ahead.

KEVIN

Hey man, pull in up there.

DEREK

Liquor store's got ice, dude.

KEVIN

Yeah, but I need to, um, avail myself of the facilities.

NTCOLE

Thanks for sharing.

KEVIN

As coach reminds us before every

KEVIN (CONT'D)

game: leak now --

### 11a KEVIN AND DEREK

11a

-- or forever hold your piss.

Chloe and Nicole are far from amused as the car splashes past more barricades topped with FLASHING YELLOW LIGHTS.

### 12 EXT. PUMP 'N' GO PARKING LOT - RAIN - NIGHT

12

Beneath an umbrella, Kevin and Nicole climb out of the back seat. Nicole stuffs her rose into the breast of her jacket.

DEREK

Back in ten.

CHLOE

Five if they don't believe his phony Iowa driver's license.

Chloe watches Kevin and Nicole as Derek's car speeds away. Kevin holds the front door for Nicole, as they enter- HE ACCIDENTALLY KNOCKS OVER A NEARBY BAG OF WINTER SALT WHICH SPILLS ALONG THE SIDEWALK.

# 13 INT. PUMP 'N' GO

13

A spacious convenience/fast-food store. Empty. Kevin heads to the rest room while Nicole searches for ice.

### 14 EXT. THE TWO MEN EXIT THE OLD BLUE VOLVO - NIGHT

14

Two men step out of the old blue Volvo. Each has an automatic hand gun tucked in his pants. They enter the convenience store.

### 15 INT. REST ROOM - SHORTLY AFTER

15

At the sink, Kevin washes his hands, throws water in his face when suddenly HE FREEZES, SENSING SOMETHING. Unsettling silence. A look of questioning terror floods his face.

He stares into the mirror and suddenly -- a LOUD CRACK as it spiderwebs from top to bottom. Kevin jumps, stares at the rest room door a long moment, inches toward it cautiously.

# 16 INT. PUMP 'N' GO - CONTINUOUS

16

Kevin slinks along the wall. Peeks around a corner to see

### 16a **A MAN** 16a

His face covered by A RED DEVIL MASK - call him TRICK - holding a gun on the CASHIER. Kevin takes another step, sees a SECOND THUG with a gun and an identical RED DEVIL MASK.

TRICK

-- cut the bullshit, man. Where
the hell is he!?

CASHIER

-- I told you, man, I don't know
who you are talking about.

### 16b **ON KEVIN**

16b

Searching for Nicole. He spots her reflection in an overhead mirror as she squeezes into the narrow space between the wall and ice freezer. Searches for his phone. Not there.

16c AT THE COUNTER 16c

Using his gun, Trick SWEEPS the counter displays away in a flurry of anger.

TRICK

You wanna be dead motherfucker?

The second thug - TREAT - presses his gun's muzzle into the cashier's forehead.

TREAT

Tell us again how you don't know who we are talking about.

TRICK

Treat man, check the bathroom. Maybe this asshole didn't see him go in. Is that it?

The cashier laughs nervously, then jumps as Trick FIRES at the two surveillance cameras, shattering them and causing Nicole to squeal which distracts Treat who spots Nicole in her hiding space. He yanks her into the light.

TREAT

Get your ass outta there, bitch.

Nicole SCREAMS when he pulls her to the front of the store.

NTCOLE

Please don't hurt me.

16d AT THE WALL 16d

Kevin watches, mind racing, searching for a course of action. Scans the nearby shelves. Paper products. Napkins and towels.

16e AT THE COUNTER 16e

The cashier glances below the counter to a GUN resting on a shelf.

16f IN FRONT 16f

Staring at Nicole, Trick strokes the RED-WHITE-BLACK STRIPED SCARF, pulls it tightly around her neck while pressing the gun barrel against her temple.

TRICK

Nice scarf around the pretty lady's neck.

(to cashier)

You wanna see this bitch dead, man? I'm counting to three --

#### 16q IN THE BACK AREA

16q

Kevin inches forward, searches for a makeshift weapon.

TRICK (O.S.)

One.

Kevin finds the biggest can on the shelf. Grabs one in each hand and quietly moves forward.

TRICK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Two.

Kevin's nearly at the front when his sleeve brushes against a jar of olives. The jar falls, SHATTERS on the floor. Olives roll and all heads turn in Kevin's direction.

NICOLE

Kevin!

Treat turns, Nicole breaks free but slips on the rain-slicked floor as Trick FIRES at Kevin. The bullet meant for Kevin strikes Nicole in the head. Blood splatters on Kevin as Nicole drops to the floor, her rose falls out of her jacket and lays next to her.

KEVIN

Nicole!

Kevin lunges toward Trick, stares into bloodless eyes framed by bushy eyebrows before THE GUN FIRES again.

He's struck in the leg. Blood gushes as he falls back into a store display, collapses while simultaneously --

### 16h AT THE REGISTER -- THE CASHIER

16h

Snatches the gun from behind the counter. FIRES once. Hits Treat. Trick returns fire at the Cashier who's hit -- but he gets off one stray shot before dropping behind the counter.

Dead silence. BLACK.

FADE IN: